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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AMERICA.

POPULATION OF THE KLONDIKE.—The census taken in May, last year, in the Klondike mining field showed 16,395 persons, of whom 14,834 were white men, 1,195 white women, and 366 Indians. The population included 9,534 Americans, 4,555 British subjects, of whom 3,000 were Canadians; 155 Germans, 146 Swedes, 107 Norwegians, and 101 French.

IRRIGATION IN COLORADO.—The *Monthly Weather Review* for November says that agriculture by irrigation has reached a degree of development in Colorado unrivalled elsewhere in the arid regions. There is no prospect, however, of its further extension under present circumstances. The amount of water now reaching the streams is smaller than a quarter of a century ago. Scarcity is common, and droughty conditions during the summer often cause great loss. Deforestation and forest fires have removed large tracts of timber, nature's reservoirs in the mountains, so that the amount of moisture conserved till midsummer is growing less under the unobstructed influence of the sun and winds.

EUROPE.

GROWTH OF GERMAN CITIES.—The census of Germany is now taken every five years. The enumeration on December 1 last revealed remarkable growth of German cities since 1895. The transference of population from the country to the cities made more rapid progress in the past five years than at any earlier period. The population of Berlin is 1,884,345, a gain of 12.3 per cent. in five years. Nuremberg has made the most rapid increase. Situated at the convergence of several valleys, it is the meeting-place of seven large railroads, and one of the largest receiving and shipping points in South Germany. Its increase in population was over 60 per cent., or 90,357 in a total population of 260,743. The city of Posen is a striking illustration of the growth of manufacturing and the decline of agriculture. The province of Posen has grown very little in population for years, as the young farmers have flocked to the cities of Prussia to find employment in the factories; but while the province, as a whole, has languished, the city of Posen has grown more rapidly than any other, except

Nuremberg. Its population is 116,151, an increase over 1895 of 58.6 per cent. The population of Stettin is 209,988, an increase of 49.2 per cent.; of Mannheim, 140,384, an increase of 43.6 per cent.; Hamburg has 704,069 population, increase 79,117; Munich, 498,503, increase 87,502; Leipzig, 455,120, increase 55,126; Breslau, 422,415, increase 49,246; Dresden, 305,349, increase 58,909; Cologne, 376,085, increase 49,121; Frankfort-on-the-Main, 287,813, increase 58,534; Chemnitz, 206,584, increase 45,567; and Halle, 156,503, increase 43,027. Seventy years ago about four-fifths of the population living in the states that now compose the German Empire were engaged in agriculture. For fifteen years, however, the transformation of Germany from an agricultural to an industrial nation has made steady progress.

CANALS IN HUNGARY.—The plans for the new canals, projected by the Hungarian Government, have been submitted to the House of Deputies, which is expected to vote the money required to build them. One of them is to connect the Theiss and Danube rivers, saving about 400 miles of navigation and giving the upper Theiss valley a short water route to Budapest. The Schamatzer canal, which is to be dug between the Danube and the Save, will shorten the water route from the upper Save to Budapest about 250 miles. The third project is to connect the Waag and Oder systems, thus giving a water connection between Germany and Hungary.

AFRICA.

STEAMERS ON THE UPPER CONGO.—The first steamer was launched at Stanley Pool, on the Upper Congo, twenty years ago. There are now 103 steamboats plying on the Upper Congo and its tributaries, or preparing in the shipyards at Stanley Pool for launching. According to *Le Mouvement Géographique*, Belgian enterprise has placed nearly half of these vessels on the river—the fleet of the Congo Free State numbering twenty-nine, and that of the Belgium trading companies nineteen steamers. In the past two years the French have sent thirty-nine boats to Brazzaville, on Stanley Pool, and most of them have been launched. The Dutch traders own ten vessels, the Germans two, and English and American missionary societies have four steamers in their service. Within the past two years half of the Upper Congo fleet has been carried on the cars to Stanley Pool. A month was formerly required to transport a steamboat, carried in sections on the backs of porters, around the rapids in the Lower Congo; but a steamboat is now carried over

the route in two days. Thus both railroad and steam vessels are working together in the commercial expansion of the country.

MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN THE BAHR-EL-GHAZAL AND EUROPE.—Postal communications have been opened between Europe and the Bahr-el-Ghazal, in the southern part of the Nile basin. Mails from the Belgian post at Lado, on the Upper Nile, have arrived in Belgium in twenty-nine days. An English gunboat is plying regularly between the Bahr-el-Ghazal, Fashoda, and Khartum, where it connects with the railroad to Cairo. Thus regular steam communications have been established between equatorial Central Africa and Europe (*Revue Française de l'étranger et des Colonies*, Oct., 1900).

DWARFS IN THE CONGO FORESTS.—The *Geographical Journal* (Jan., 1901) says that Sir Harry Johnston, in July last, crossed the Semliki river and entered the Congo Free State to transact some business with the Free State officials. He improved the opportunity to restore to their homes in the Congo forest a number of dwarfs who had been kidnapped by a German for the purpose of sending them to the Paris Exposition. He made many photographs of the dwarfs he met in the forest, and of their implements and dwellings. They were of two types—black skinned, with a good deal of stiff, curling black hair about the body; and red, or yellow skin, with a tendency to redness in the hair of the head. The explorer believes these dwarfs no longer speak an original language, but talk, in a slightly corrupted form, the language of the taller negroes near whom they live. In speaking the languages of surrounding tribes the dwarfs introduce into their pronunciation “hiatuses,” which bear a strong resemblance to the clicks of the Bushman and Hottentot. They also speak in a curious and very marked sing-song. Their intelligence is well developed, and, though ugly in features and often ape-like in appearance, they are usually of winning and cheerful disposition. Their dances are so frolicsome and gay and so full of pretty movements as to distinguish them, in this respect, from the average negro.

ASIA.

THE QUESTION OF LOB-NOR.—When Dr. Sven Hedin reached a telegraph office, late last year, he sent this message to Sweden: “The Lob-nor question is solved.” The details of his investigation in this part of Chinese Turkistan have recently reached Sweden in a long letter from the explorer. Lake Lob is shown on old Chinese maps as a large salt lake among the sand-wastes north of the giant

Altyn-Tagh range. The lake receives the waters of the long Tarim river, and some other streams. The Russian explorer, Prjevalsky, reaching Lob-nor in 1876, found it considerably south of the position assigned to it by the Chinese, and attributed the fact to the inaccuracy of the Chinese maps. After Dr. Hedin visited the lake, in 1896, he published in *Petermanns Mittheilungen* a series of nine maps, showing that the Chinese had assigned different positions to the lake at various times, these positions lying approximately north or south of one another. He advanced the theory that the lake is not stationary, but within the past few centuries has moved about forty miles to the south, and is now moving north again. This theory was discredited by Russian geographers, who accepted Prjevalsky's view that the Chinese charts were untrustworthy. On his visit to the lake last year Dr. Hedin discovered, to the north of the present lake, the bed of the lake as it is marked on the Chinese maps of the eighteenth century. He was twelve hours in crossing this old bed, which consists of horizontal layers of mud-banks, in which there are millions of shells of salt-water mussels, showing that this sterile ground once teemed with life. Hedin's explanation of the migration of the lake is that which he advanced after his first visit. He says that the region where the waters accumulate is now practically on a dead level, and it requires only the formation of mud-flats or sand-dunes, a little above the general level, to change the position of the main water receptacle.

AUSTRALIA.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—The Australian colonies on January 1 last became States in the Commonwealth of Australia. The nation thus formed shares with the United States a distinction that until now has been held by this country alone. Australia's resources are so large and varied that it may reasonably expect in time to become, in most material things, a self-sufficing nation. Owing to its vast extent, Australia embraces every variety of climate, except that found within the Polar circle. It can grow most of the vegetable and animal products of the temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical regions. It is given only to two nations—the United States and the Commonwealth of Australia—to be able to produce nearly all the commodities they need.

NOTES ON COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY.

France's wine crop in 1900 was the fourth largest crop ever produced in that country. The amount was 1,721,000,000 gallons.

It would have been larger if the heavy rains of September had not destroyed the grapes on many thousands of acres. Periodicals devoted to the interests of the wine-growers are advising that attention now be paid to quality, and not to the quantity. Consul Covert writes from Lyons that there are reasons to believe that the acreage planted in vines will not be increased.

The statistics just published by the Merchants' Union Silk Syndicate of Lyons, France, show an increase of about 4,000,000 pounds of raw silk a year in the three years ending in 1899, and a total production of 38,300,000 pounds in 1899. These figures, however, include only the export product of China, Japan, and Persia. These countries retain enormous quantities of raw silk for home manufacture, and the total product for the year 1899 is estimated at 60,000,000 pounds.

In 1897 artificial indigo was brought upon the market at a price that enabled it to compete with the indigo raised in the Bengal province of Behar, the chief region of indigo culture. Dr. Brunck, in a recent lecture in Berlin, said that the growth of the manufacture of artificial indigo in Germany has been so enormous that 250,000 acres of land in India are required to produce as much indigo as is now manufactured annually from coal-tar by one company in Baden. The artificial supply seems likely to drive the natural product from the market. In the effort to avert the destruction of the Behar indigo industry the British Government has recently ordered that all the blue cloth supplied to the army and navy must be dyed in natural indigo.

The free-trade policy that Russia has long maintained in Siberia came to an end in January. The heavy duties levied in European Russia will be imposed at the Siberian frontiers and ports. A short free list, however, will include cereals, as eastern Siberia does not raise all the grain needed. Agricultural machinery will also be free. The free-trade policy has been abandoned because Russia believes that, with the completion of steam communications overland to Vladivostok, Russia may herself supply the needs of eastern Siberia, to the exclusion of foreign commodities.

POLAR REGIONS.

The Swedish party, led by Mr. Gustav Kolthoff, report the results of their voyage last summer for the study of the Arctic fauna.

They left Norway on the 4th of June, and made their first stop at Spitzbergen.

They explored Prince Charles Island, and then steamed along the edge of the impenetrable Polar ice towards the coast of East Greenland as far south as the island of Jan Mayen, reaching Greenland on the 31st of July, at Mackenzie Bay. The ground was bare of snow, and vegetation was vigorous.

August 14 the vessel entered Franz Josef Fjord, which was free of ice, and there the party remained for ten days, making collections, and capturing alive two young musk oxen, which have been safely landed in Sweden.

The eastern coast of Greenland, which is ordinarily blocked by ice, was found to be almost free during the past season.